

Managing Livestock in Challenging Times

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) is providing information, expertise and strategies for Alberta livestock producers who are coping with market and weather challenges.

The rising Canadian dollar, combined with feed shortages resulting from cool, dry conditions during the 2009 growing season mean that producers have been impacted both financially, and agronomically. As a result, many producers are faced with having to make critical and strategic decisions concerning their operations.

To assist producers with their decision-making process, ARD has launched a multi-pronged approach, consisting of:

- updating information related to production options on Ropin' the Web, as well as working with our Extension Partners to provide expertise and knowledge at speaking events/opportunities;
- providing a list of private sector feed companies on Ropin' the Web's General Store; and
- Market Outlook Seminars with Ann Dunford, which will assist producers in examining the present cattle prices and the future outlook for the cattle industry.

Producers participating in Agriculture Financial Service Corporation's (AFSC) risk management programs are also encouraged to speak with their AFSC representative for more information.

The Federal government has unveiled details about investments to help hog farmers restructure or exit the industry, and to help the industry take advantage of new market opportunities. Visit www.agr.gc.ca for more information.

Finding Information

To help you manage during dry conditions, and for further information:

The Alberta Ag-Info Centre (310-FARM) and Agriculture and Rural Development's 'Ropin' the Web' website (www.agric.gov.ab.ca) provide producers with many sources of information to help in making decisions.

Read the extensive information under "Options for Alberta Producers under the current dry conditions" at www.agric.gov.ab.ca. Note that species-specific information for all livestock will be posted as it becomes available.

Call the Ag Info Centre toll-free in Alberta at 310-FARM (3276).

Contact AFSC at www.afsc.ca or by telephone at 1-800-396-0215 for information about crop insurance, AgriStability, and lending options.

Seek out what you need from fall producer meetings, the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development booth at fairs/trade fairs, feed and nutrition suppliers, agricultural associations.

For a map of 2009 Livestock Tax Deferral Initial Prescribed Regions visit www.agr.gc.ca.

Further federal designations are expected in Fall 2009.